

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6293

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI CONVERSATION WITH SYG WALDHEIM

1. ISRAELI PERM REP HERZOG TALKED WITH AMB BENNETT DECEMBER 20 TO INFORM US OF CONVERSATION WITH SYG WALDHEIM EARLIER THAT MORNING. THE SYG HAD TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT THE FAHMY LETTER AND HIS DESIRE TO GET THINGS MOVING TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HERZOG SAID HE COUNSELLED WALDHEIM TO GO SLOW AND POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL WAS ENTERING A VERY DELICATE PERIOD WITH ELECTIONS POSSIBLE. HE TOLD THE SYG HE WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT IN ISRAEL, PROVIDED HE CAME THERE UNDER FRAMEWORK OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 AND NOT REPEAT NOT UNDER THE FRAME OF GA RESOLUTIONS 31/61 AND 31/62. HERZOG SAID HE HAD MADE THESE STATEMENTS TO WALDHEIM WITH IDEA OF INFLUENCING WALDHEIM'S APPROACH IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE MIGHT PLAN TO MAKE, AND SO THAT WALDHEIM COULD PLAN ANY PUBLIC MESSAGES TO GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP ACCORDINGLY. HE SAID WALDHEIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE COMMENTS.

2. ACCORDING HERZOG, WALDHEIM TOLD HIM THAT BOTH KISSINGER AND KUZNETSOV, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO AHEAD ON MIDDLE EAST, BUT BOTH HAD ADVISED HIM NOT TO GO TOO FAST. KUZNETSOV HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT A DETAILED SCENARIO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE; NOT TO START SOMETHING WITHOUT KNOWING HOW IT WOULD COME OUT. WALDHEIM HAD COMMENTED ON AVID SOVIET INTEREST IN GETTING BACK INTO THE CENTER OF MIDDLE EAST

NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE, LATTER HAD ADVISED WALDHEIM NOT TO HURRY ON ANY INITIATIVE, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE SITUATION AND DID NOT WANT TO BE RUSHED.

4. HERZOG SAID HE HAD AGREED WITH WALDHEIM THAT, IN GENERAL, THERE WAS A BETTER ATMOSPHERE NOW IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THERE WERE PROPECTS FOR FORWARD STEPS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. HOW BEST TO MAKE USE OF THE BETTER ATMOSPHERE--HEROZ HAD ARGUED IN FAVOR OF SYG TAKING SMALL STEPS, DOING SOME SMALL THINGS. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO WALDHEIM THAT, FOR INSTANCE, HE INVITE ISRAELIS AND ARABS TO GET TOGETHER IN HIS OFFICE, PERHAPS IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. HERZOG DID NOT INDICATE WALDHEIM'S REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION.
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